

Appl. No. : 10/009,011
Filed : July 19, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 5, 7, 8, and 11-13 without prejudice and amend Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 14-19, and 21 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a chimeric virus genome, said genome being a ~~BVDV~~ bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) genome in which ~~the structural region of the BVDV genome has been replaced by the structural region of a hepatitis C virus genome~~ at least one gene from the structural region of the BVDV genome has been replaced by the corresponding gene from the structural region of a hepatitis C virus genome.

2. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one gene from the structural region of the BVDV genome has been replaced by the corresponding gene from the structural region of a hepatitis C virus genome~~ the structural region of the BVDV genome has been replaced by the structural region of the hepatitis C virus genome.

3. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the gene from the structural region is selected from the group consisting of E1, E2, or C.

4. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the E1 and E2 genes from the structural region of the BVDV genome have been replaced by the E1 and E2 genes of a hepatitis C virus genome.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the E2 gene from the structural regions of the BVDV genome has been replaced by the E2 gene of a hepatitis C virus genome.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A DNA construct comprising the nucleic acid molecule of ~~claims 1, 2 or 7~~ claim 1.

10. (Original) An RNA transcript of the DNA construct of claim 9.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

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14. (Currently amended) A An isolated host cell transfected with the DNA construct of claim 9.
15. (Currently amended) A An isolated host cell transfected with the RNA transcript of claim 10.
16. (Currently amended) A chimeric HCV-BVDV virus produced by transfecting a host cell infected by BVDV with the DNA construct of claim 9.
17. (Currently amended) A chimeric HCV-BVDV virus produced by transfecting a host cell infected by BVDV with the RNA transcript of claim 10.
18. (Currently amended) A An isolated cell infected with the virus of claim 16.
19. (Currently amended) A An isolated cell infected with the virus of claim 17.
20. (Original) A composition comprising the virus of claims 16 or 17 in a suitable excipient, diluent or carrier.
21. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of ~~claims 1, 2 or 7~~ claim 1, wherein the hepatitis C virus genome is an infectious hepatitis C virus genome.